

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-23 are pending in the application. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 7, 11 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Bobrow in view of Rivette; and has rejected Claims 3-4, 8-9, 13-14 and 18-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Bobrow in view of Rivette and further in view of Hori.

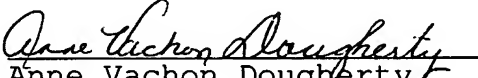
The Examiner has indicated that Claims 5-6 and 10 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has not expressly rejected or allowed Claims 15-16 and 20. Applicants respectfully assert that the language of Claims 15-16 and 20 parallels the language of the allowable Claims 5-6 and 10. Applicants believe that Claims 15-16 and 20 should have been objected to but considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In a telephone interview on December 11, 2006, Examiner Stork confirmed that Claims 15-16 and 20 are also allowable but objected to. Applicants thank the Examiner for his time and consideration of this matter.

By the present amendments, Applicants amend the allowable Claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 to place those claims in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants cancel non-allowed independent Claims 1 and 11, but have included all of the limitations of Claim 1 in Claims 5, 10, 21 and 22 and have included all of the limitations of Claim 11 in Claims 15, 20 and 23. In addition, Applicants have changed the dependency of Claims 3-4, 8-9, 13-14 and 18-19 to appropriately depend from and refer to allowable claims.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections, and issuance of the remaining claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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